



# FOREST PEST REPORTER

Division of Plant Industry CN 330 Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 609-292-5440

## 1996 New Jersey Gypsy Moth Suppression Acres Increased

This spring the Department is proposing the aerial spraying of approximately 22,350 acres of residential and high-use recreational areas for control of the gypsy moth. This represents a threefold increase in treatment acres from 1995. The spray blocks are located in the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, Salem and Union.

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has developed a gypsy moth pest management strategy which is directed at preventing tree mortality within residential and high-use recreational areas of the state, by using non-chemical spray applications to reduce larval leaf feeding.

The project began with state-wide pre-suppression surveys, conducted during the fall and winter months, to delineate highly infested areas using gypsy moth egg mass counts. In

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addition to the egg mass counts, the inspectors also evaluate the stand susceptibility level, the size of the egg mass (as it relates to the health of the gypsy moth population), the degree of egg parasitism, and determines which spray priority category the proposed treatment area should be classified.

Participation in the tree protection program is completely voluntary. For 1996, 29 municipalities and one state forest have requested treatment. A summary of the proposed treatment acreage, by municipality, is shown in Table 1.

All areas will be treated from the air with undiluted formulations of Bacillus thuringiensis, (B.t.) at a dosage rate of 30 B.I.U.'s or 80 ounces per acre. The aerial spray treatment is expected to reduce gypsy moth populations by at least 80 percent and defoliation levels should not exceed 30 percent. This foliage protection will serve to greatly lower the possibility of tree loss. The aerial spray project is expected to begin on May 6, 1996 and continue until completion on, or about, May 24, 1996.

The Department of Agriculture conducted a public meeting (Scoping Meeting) on January 4, 1996. In addition, on January 11, 1996, the Department met with all municipal representatives who had requested participation in the voluntary spray program. The purpose of this meeting was to outline and discuss all legal, fiscal and personnel requirements of the gypsy moth suppression project.

The Department of Agriculture also prepared an Environmental Assessment of the gypsy moth spray project as well as a Project Work and Safety Plan.

Additional information concerning the project can be found in these documents which are available for public review in the Division of Plant Industry office in Trenton.

### GYPSY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STAFF:

Bureau Chief - John Kegg  
Entomologist - Joseph Zoltowski  
Senior Inspector - William Fehr, Sr.  
Secretary - Jacqueline Thomas

Table 1. - Acres Proposed for Treatment with B.t.k in the New Jersey Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Project. NJDA 1996

<u>County</u>	<u>Municipality or State Owned Land</u>	<u>Number Blocks</u>	<u>Proposed Acres</u>
Atlantic	Egg Harbor Twp.	2	185
Burlington	Evesham Twp.	1	95
	Shamong Twp.	1	830
	Southampton Twp.	3	450
Camden	Berlin Twp.	3	530
	Clememton Bor.	1	160
	Gibbsboro Bor.	1	30
	Pine Hill Bor.	1	30
	Voorhees Twp.	1	890
	Waterford Twp.	1	675
Cape May	Dennis Twp.	16	1,545
	Middle Twp.	7	895
	Upper Twp.	11	2,125
	Woodbine Bor.	1	75
	Belleplain St. Forest	2	500
Cumberland	Commercial Twp.	4	1,365
	Fairfield Twp.	3	480
	Hopewell Twp.	2	340
	Maurice River Twp.	8	1,915
	Millville City	9	2,735
	Vineland City	9	1,800
Gloucester	Franklin Twp.	1	190
Ocean	Dover Twp.	2	885
	Island Heights Bor.	2	180
	Lakeland Twp.	1	100
Salem	Elsinboro Twp.	1	65
	Lower Alloway Creek Twp.	1	120
	Pittsgrove Twp.	12	2,570
	Upper Pittsgrove Twp.	1	140
Union	<u>Scotch Plains Twp.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>450</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>22,350</b>